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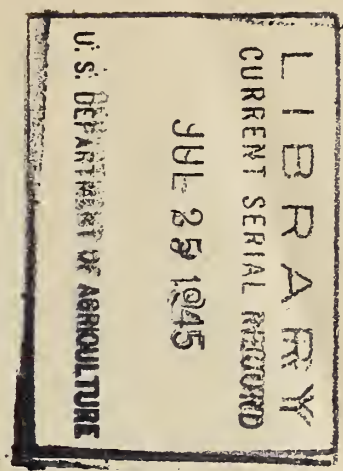
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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION
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"THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT"

For immediate broadcast

January....1945

It's January on the "Agricultural Front"! This is the beginning of the New Year...and it brings us lots of news of special interest to you. Today, I'd like to discuss food prospects for the year ahead... the egg case situation, the cheddar cheese set-aside, and finally, some important aspects of holiday presents from overseas.

I'd like to begin with some interesting facts about food prospects for the year ahead. The civilian food supply for 1945 is expected to be about the same as in 1944. And that's quite a food supply, because last year, the average civilian consumed at least seven percent more food than he did in the pre-war years of 1935 to 1939. Of course, the proportion of certain foods may increase...and others may decrease... but generally, as I said, food stocks will remain about the same.

Sugar is one food which has been very scarce during the latter part of 1944. This shortage has been due to the canning of the large 1944 fruit crop, and to the needs for the Christmas candy trade. However, sugar will not be plentiful in the year ahead. Our domestic production goals on both cane and beet sugar have been increased, but a shortage of labor will prevent supplies from becoming much larger.

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Although sugar from Cuba and other areas is available, all our ships are tied up on the supply lines to Europe and the Pacific. Also the Japs still hold areas that provided us with a large part of our sugar before the war. And even if the war situation should improve enough to allow more shipping this year...supplies wouldn't be increased very much. The reason is that refiners, too, are short of labor for speedy work...and shipping would not be fast...so sugar supplies, even under these conditions, wouldn't be available for some time.

Still another item that's been scarce this year is butter. And as things look now, civilians probably won't have any more butter this year than last...and they may have less, if production continues to drop. Civilians are drinking far more fluid milk than they did before the war...and at the same time, war requirements for dairy products take a tremendous amount of milk...more than the relatively small increase in total milk production.

So butter supplies will continue small, while civilians will still get record amounts of fluid milk this year. Butter production is at its seasonal low, now...and it won't go up until spring of this year. So consumer supplies of butter can't be expected to increase much until then.

What will be the coffee situation in 1945? There have been rumors making the rounds lately about coffee going back on rationing... but these facts speak for themselves. The War Food Administration reports that adequate supplies of coffee are in view for this year. Stocks on hand are ample...and Brazil agreed to ship us 1,000,000 pounds for each of the months of October, November and December 1944.

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Additional supplies are coming in from other of our neighbors to the South. So, with these advance stocks on hand, roasting supplies are assured for some time. Total supplies of meat will be down in 1945. This is due mainly to a decrease in pork production. The amount of beef should be the same or a little higher than in 1944, and it will probably be a little better in quality. Veal won't be any more plentiful, and the supply may be smaller than last year. There will be very little change in lamb and mutton stocks.

Supplies of all pork, including ham, bacon and sausage can be expected to be the same or smaller than during the present season..because the peak of the hog crop came during last winter, and will continue at a lower level. And even if the spring pig crop were to be increased with slightly larger feed supplies, the increase in ham an bacon would probably not come until fall of this year.

The fresh fruit and vegetable situation for the year looks very encouraging. Depending, of course, on the weather, supplies of fresh vegetables may be a little below last year's record supplies. And we're counting on Victory Gardeners to turn in another record performance.

The potato supply for the early months of 1945 will probably be smaller than at the same time last year. Then we were eating a record fall crop of late potatoes plus considerable supplies of southern spuds. The late potatoes of the 1944 crop have been moving out of markets faster this year...and the crop was smaller. And that means less potatoes for the first months of 1945.

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country.

2. The second part of the report deals with the economic situation of the country.

3. The third part of the report deals with the social situation of the country.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the political situation of the country.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the cultural situation of the country.

6. The sixth part of the report deals with the international situation of the country.

7. The seventh part of the report deals with the future of the country.

8. The eighth part of the report deals with the conclusion of the report.

9. The ninth part of the report deals with the appendix of the report.

10. The tenth part of the report deals with the bibliography of the report.

11. The eleventh part of the report deals with the index of the report.

12. The twelfth part of the report deals with the list of figures of the report.

13. The thirteenth part of the report deals with the list of tables of the report.

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Barring natural mishaps, the 1945 production of fresh fruit can be expected to be nearly as large as last year's record. The hurricane damage to the citrus crop reduced probable production this winter to a little below the 1943-44 season.

According to a survey made in December, 1944 by the WFA's Office of Distribution...the stocks of egg cases on hand, plus orders placed for the first quarter of 1945 are only half of the estimated needs for egg cases in the Northeastern States.

The number of fiber cases in use this year is far greater than last year. And fiber cases must be replaced more often than wooden cases. This is another factor which **increases** the demand for cases during the heavy producing months of late winter and early spring.

You producers and shippers are urged to order new and used egg cases right away. Otherwise, you may be left without enough cases. Remember...order your new and used egg cases right away, and accept early delivery.

And here's an item of particular interest to you dairy farmers. The War Food Administration has announced that manufacturers of cheddar cheese will be required to set aside 25 percent of their production for January 1945 for Government purchase. This is the same as the set-aside percentage for November and December production...but it's five percent lower than the quota for January 1944.

Civilian supplies of cheddar cheese next month are expected to be about the same as in recent months. And they'll be about ten percent larger than during January of last year.

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When the new set-aside quota was announced, WFA officials stated that requirements of cheddar for our fighting men and our allies are expected to continue high during this year. And that means that the set-aside program will be continued.

The holiday season is traditionally one for giving and receiving gifts. A great many boys overseas are sending souvenirs home to their families. And here's a very important point about those gifts. Please burn all the wrappings as soon as you receive the package. Then destroy materials which are liable to carry insects, pests, or plant diseases. Once established in this country these insects and diseases could do serious harm to our farms, gardens, forest, lawns, flower beds and homes.

It's impossible for our quarantine and customs inspectors to examine every single package, at a port of entry and make sure it's free of plants, unprocessed plant products, or packing materials that carry injurious pests.

The Army and Navy are cooperating by giving instructions to the men and women as to what plant materials are likely to carry pests and shouldn't be mailed home. Censors are cooperating in the enforcement of these instructions. Postal and customs personnel are helping plant quarantine inspectors in segregating packages containing plant material. All this is done to bring home gifts from overseas as quickly and as safely as possible.

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Since it is very difficult for inspectors to check all the packages, please help protect your farms and homes from foreign diseases. If the package contains some souvenir wrapped in raw unginned cotton, rice, straw, or hulls, dried grasses or forest litter...this material should be burned promptly.

When a package contains plants coming from abroad, it's usually stamped "Entry Permitted" or "Inspected and Released" by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture". If it isn't stamped that way, the package should be sent to the nearest Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine Inspection station. In this area, the station is at 209 River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey. If the station determines that the plant is free of disease or pests, it will return the package. If you want to receive plants, bulbs, roots, or seeds from abroad, just follow this simple procedure...Write to the same address. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, 209 River Street, Hoboken, New Jersey, and ask for instructions on how the plants should be packaged abroad. These simple official instructions can be sent to servicemen with the request that they follow them.

We can't keep foreign plant pests away without your cooperation. Right now, foreign insect pests like the Japanese beetle, the European corn bore, Gypsy moth, and cotton boll-weevil have cost us in crop damage at least one hundred million dollars a year. So please help keep them away from our farms and homes by burning wrappings on packages from abroad...and by following the instructions of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

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And before I close, here are some important points for the New Year. Always remember that you live in the best-fed nation at war. Food supplies have been high through the war years, and in general, though there may be shortages of one food or another, they'll remain the same for the year ahead. Make your New Year's resolution now...Resolve to do your best to keep this the best-fed nation at war...by not letting down on your job...by topping our production record...and by seeing that no good food goes to waste.

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